

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

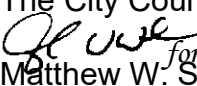
Date: September 17, 2026

CAO File No. 0220-06425-0000

Council File No. 21-1015-S21

Council District: ALL

To: The City Council

From:  for
Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer

Subject: **FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT APPLICATIONS: AUTHORITY TO APPLY FOR
THE BALDWIN HILLS AND URBAN WATERSHED CONSERVANCY
PROPOSITION 4 COMMUNITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council, subject to approval of the Mayor:

1. Authorize the Director of the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN), or designee, to prepare and submit a grant application for the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watershed Conservancy Proposition 4 Community and Climate Resilience Grant;
2. Adopt the draft Resolution (Attachment No. 2) to this Report, as requested by the grantor and subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality, which endorses the grant agreement and agrees to comply with the program and funding requirements of the grant; and,
3. Instruct the Director of LASAN, or designee, to report back if the City is awarded the grants, to request authority to accept the grant awards, and to request approval for any related actions to implement the grant awards.

DISCUSSION

On November 5, 2024, California voters approved the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4). Proposition 4 authorizes the issuance of \$10 billion in general obligation bonds to finance statewide investments in programs such as safe drinking water; drought, flood, and water resilience; park creation, outdoor access, and climate-smart, sustainable, and resilient working lands. The Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (BH UWC) is a non-regulatory entity within the California Natural Resources Agency, which was created to acquire and manage public lands, protect and restore wildlife habitat, and provide open space for recreation and public enjoyment within the Baldwin Hills area of Los Angeles, including the Southern Ballona Creek and Upper Dominguez Channel Watersheds. The BH UWC was allocated \$48 million of Proposition 4 funds to reduce the risks of climate-change impacts upon communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources, and to increase public access. On May 25, 2026, the BH UWC released a notice of funding availability for a Proposition 4 Community and Climate Resilience grant. The BH UWC Proposition 4 grant will provide funding to support programs and projects that protect biodiversity,

restore watershed function, and expand equitable access to parks and open space. Applications are being accepted in a two-step process on a rolling basis throughout 2026. The first step is a concept proposal to assess feasibility, alignment, and eligibility.

Applicant Eligibility and Availability of Funding

Various governmental agencies, tribes, districts, joint power authorities, and cities and counties, are eligible to receive financial assistance from the BH UWC Proposition 4 grant to fund projects located within, or directly benefiting the Conservancy's jurisdictional territory of Baldwin Hills, or the Southern Ballona Creek or Upper Dominguez Channel Watersheds in Los Angeles.

Non-eligible entities (e.g., private corporations) may participate as partners, contractors, or community collaborators; however, the lead applicant must be an eligible entity listed above.

Eligible projects must meet one or more of the Conservancy's eight Community and Climate Resilience Goals and provide direct, tangible, and substantial benefits to communities or ecological systems, as designated by the Conservancy's Priority Projects:

1. Empower Safe and Resilient Communities
2. Increase Access to Parks and Open Spaces
3. Protect and Manage Water Resources
4. Increase Biodiversity
5. Advance Urban Forest Health
6. Remediate Degraded Lands
7. Mitigate Impacts from Extreme Heat
8. Prevent Wildfire

There are \$48 million in funds available for distribution under the BH UWC Proposition 4 grant. No less than 40 percent (\$19.2 million) must be allocated and expended for projects that benefit vulnerable populations or disadvantaged communities. No less than 10 percent (\$4.8 million) must be allocated and expended for projects that benefit severely disadvantaged communities. The Conservancy may exceed these thresholds where project needs, community vulnerability, or alignment with statewide climate-equity priorities warrants additional investment.

Eligible applicants may request funding in an amount between \$50,000 and \$500,000 for planning, design, technical studies, community engagement, preliminary engineering, feasibility analysis, or minor implementation projects, or in an amount between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 for design-build, construction, restoration, acquisition, multi-benefit capital projects, implementation efforts that deliver substantial climate-resilience, environmental, or community benefits. The number of grants awarded will depend on the amount requested by each applicant.

LASAN Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project

This Office received a project proposal from the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) for the Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project (Project). LASAN submitted a concept proposal to BH UWC on July 16, 2026,

and received a notification on July 21, 2026, with an invitation to submit a full application by September 25, 2026.

The LASAN Project submission detailed in Attachment 1 seeks a BH UWC Proposition 4 planning grant in the amount of \$500,000, to help cover pre-design costs for a multi-benefit stormwater improvement project along Coliseum Street designed to capture and treat stormwater runoff from a 201.6-acre drainage area using drywells, bioswales, and street trees. The Project aims to remove sediments, metals, bacteria, and trash before runoff reaches Ballona Creek, while improving stormwater quality, reducing flooding, recharging groundwater, and enhancing habitat with California native landscaping, increasing shade and reducing the urban heat island effect.

Cost Sharing Requirement

The BH UWC Proposition 4 grant has a cost-sharing requirement of 25 percent. Cost share may be made through cash contributions, in-kind services, staff time, donated materials or land value, or other eligible non-state funding sources. Match contributions must be directly related to the funded project necessary for project completion and documented in accordance with Conservancy requirements.

The total project costs for the Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project are estimated at \$30,295,000. At this time, LASAN has received \$964,919 in Regional Funding with another \$8,111,728 allocated for the project and will be received once the environmental reports are completed. LASAN will be submitting this grant application in the amount of \$500,000 to assist with pre-design costs. The cost-share is \$125,000, which LASAN will satisfy with in-kind services via staff time. These in-kind services consist of Bureau of Engineering staff managing the pre-design work throughout the planning phase with the pre-design report as the deliverable.

Resolution Requirement

Applicants invited to submit a full grant application must have an accompanying resolution by the respective governing body authorizing the grant application. Therefore, to fulfill the grant submission requirements for the BH UWC Proposition 4 grant, LASAN must include a signed and approved City Council draft Resolution (Attachment 2) which confirms that all grant and contractual obligations will be fulfilled. The Resolution must be certified by the City Clerk and submitted concurrently with LASAN's grant application no later than November 3, 2026.

Required Approval to Accept Award

In accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6(a), all departments are required to seek Mayor and Council approval before accepting and receiving a grant award. It is therefore recommended that LASAN report to the Mayor and Council upon award notification to request authority to accept and receive the grant award and confirm that there is no additional General Fund impact.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations in this report will not result in a General Fund impact. There are sufficient project funds to meet the minimum 25 percent cost sharing requirement for the project

proposed under the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy Proposition 4 Community and Climate Resilience grant. Upon notification of a grant award, a reassessment on the General Fund impact should be completed by the department as it relates to either lower than requested grant award amounts, verification of local match requirements, or front-funding for grants on a reimbursement basis.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations in this report comply with the City's Financial Policies.

Attachment: Proposed Grant Project

MWS/JWW/JVW/DG:JAS:10270013

cc: CAO Grant Coordination

ATTACHMENT 1 – PROPOSED GRANT PROJECT

CAO File No. 0220-06425-0000

Grant Administrator: The Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (BH UWC)

Name of Grant: Proposition 4 Community and Climate Resiliency

NOFO Release Date: May 25, 2026

Award Date: Approximately December 2026

Performance Period: 5 years (Estimated completion June 2031)

Lead Department	Project Name	BH UWC Proposition 4 Community and Climate Resiliency Grant Project Description	Total Project Budget (in millions)	Total Grant Request (in millions)	Local Match (in millions)	Planned Completion Date
Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN)	Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project	The project will capture and treat stormwater runoff from a 201.6-acre drainage area in the Ballona Creek Watershed.	\$30.3	\$0.5	\$0.125	5 years (06/2031)

DRAFT RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES TO APPLY AND ACCEPT THE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE BALDWIN HILLS AND URBAN WATERSHEDS CONSERVANCY FOR PROPOSITION 4 FUNDING FOR THE BALDWIN VISTA GREEN STREETS PROJECT

WHEREAS, voters of California passed the **Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024** (Proposition 4) in November of 2024. The State Legislature has appropriated funds to the BH UWC for capital outlay and local assistance projects within the Conservancy territory. Funds are to be awarded for projects that reduce the risks of climate change impacts upon communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources, and increase public access consistent with the statute creating the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (BH UWC).

WHEREAS, the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy has set forth the necessary procedures governing application for grant funds under the Proposition; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy's procedures require the City of Los Angeles to certify, by resolution, the approval of the application before submission of said application(s) to the Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, said application contains assurances that the City of Los Angeles must comply with; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles will enter into an Agreement with the Conservancy to provide funds for Planning projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, the City Council of the City of Los Angeles HEREBY:

1. Approves the filing of an application to the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy for a grant of **Proposition 4 Funds** for the above project; and
2. Certifies that the City of Los Angeles understands the assurances and certification in the application form; and
3. Certifies that the City of Los Angeles will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the project in perpetuity; including, but not limited to land acquisitions, capital improvement projects, and intellectual property-related deliverables (i.e. web-based content)
4. Certifies that the City of Los Angeles has, or will have, sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project in perpetuity; or has the right to assign maintenance to another agency; and

ATTACHMENT 2

5. Appoints the Executive Director and General Manager of the Bureau of Sanitation or designee, to conduct all negotiations, and to execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so forth, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Passed, approved and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Council of the City of Los Angeles.

SIGNATURE: _____

ATTEST: _____